THE WOMAN'S DREADNOUGHT

Published by the East London Federation of the Suffragettes.
Edited by SYLVIA PANKHURST.

VOL. II.—No. 5. SATURDAY, APRIL 17TH, 1915. PRICE ONE HALFPENNY.

All donations in money or kind should be addressed to the Financial Secretary of the E.L.F.S. :—
Miss N. L. Smyth,
400 Old Ford Road, Bow, E.

THIS WEEK'S MEETINGS.

Sunday, April 18th, at 3 p.m.—Victoria Park—Miss Sennett. Chair: Miss Beamish.
8 p.m.—Women's Hall—Mrs. Walker, Mr. E. Duval. Chair: Miss S. Pankhurst.
8 p.m.—Poplar Women's Hall—Mr. Sorensen. Chair: Mrs. Drake.
Monday, April 19th, 8 p.m.—Poplar, Vesey Street—Mrs. Drake.
8 p.m.—Powerscroft Rd.—Mr. Everett.
8 p.m.—"Peacock"—
Tuesday, April 20th, 2.30 p.m.—175 Dalston Lane, N.E.—Mrs. Walker. Chair: Miss Manicom.
3 p.m.—Bow Women's Hall—Mrs. Walshe. Chair: Miss Beamish.
8 p.m.—Limehouse, Salmon Lane—Miss Feek. Chair: Miss Beamish.
8 p.m.—Poplar Women's Hall—Mrs. Walker. Chair: Mrs. Drake.
8 p.m.—53 St. Leonard St.—Miss Barry.
Wednesday, April 21st, 8 p.m.—Chrisp St.—Mr. Everett.
8 p.m.—Ford Road—Mrs. Walker.
Thursday, April 22nd, 8 p.m.—124 Barking Rd.—Mrs. Parsons and others.
8 p.m.—175 Dalston Lane—Mr. Carlton Smith. Chair: Miss Manicom.
Friday, April 23rd.—
E.L.F.S. At Home, 3 to 11 p.m.
Self-Denial Week begins.
Sunday, April 24th, 3 p.m.—Hyde Park—Miss Fedden. Chair: Mrs. Walker.
8 p.m.—Bow Women's Hall—Miss Fedden, Mrs. Drake.

Monday, April 19th, at 8 p.m.—Canning Town—E.L.F.S. GENERAL MEETING. Members be sure to keep this date free.

To reach Old Ford Road take an Old Ford 'bus (No. 8), which goes via the Marble Arch, Oxford St., the Bank and Liverpool St., or book to Old Ford Station on the North London Railway.

SUFFRAGE CLUBS. Poplar, 20 Railway St., 7 to 10 p.m., Tuesdays and Fridays.
Bow, 400 Old Ford Road, Fridays 7 to 10. p.m.

MOTHERS AND BABIES.

We urgently need subscriptions to help us to pay the heavy milk bill for our centres in Bow, Bromley, Poplar and Canning Town ; also gifts of :

EGGS.

For invalids and babies who are too ill to digest milk, and are given the white of egg beaten up in water.

ARROWROOT, BARLEY & RICE, BORACIC POWDER, BORACIC LINT, VASELINE, ZINC OINTMENT, COD LIVER OIL AND MALT, GLAXO AND VIROL.

We lend necessitous mothers outfits for their babies, for the first months.

FOR BABY.

Four gowns, four barrows, two flannel bands, twelve napkins, three vests and a cot blanket.

FOR MOTHER.

Two nightgowns, a woollen shawl, three towels, two sheets and one pair pillowcases.

Doctor's attendances and baby weighing
400 Old Ford Rd., Bow, Mondays 2.30 p.m.; 20 Railway St., Poplar, Mondays 3 p.m.; 53 St. Leonard's St., Thursdays 2.30 p.m.; 14 Butcher's Rd., Canning Town,

Mothers may have the leaflets on baby-feeding by applying at any of the centres.

OUR COST-PRICE RESTAURANTS

400 Old Ford Road, Bow, E.
20 Railway Street, Poplar.
53 St. Leonard's Street, Bromley.

Two-course meals 2d. (children 1d.)
Soup 1d. a pint with a piece of bread.

Will you send us a gift of provisions to reduce our bills, which are growing rapidly with the rising prices ?

OUR FACTORY.

Price lists for our toys, garments and shoes may be had on application to 400 Old Ford Road, Bow.

Help us to produce skilled work at a living wage.

REPORT OF BOARD OF TRADE CONFERENCE.

Runciman explodes Lloyd George's promise.

On Tuesday, April 13th, Mr. Runciman, the President of the Board of Trade called a conference of women's organisations to discuss the question of War Service for Women. The room was crowded with women, most of whom were indelibly stamped "middle class." Mr. Runciman came in rather late with a group of half-a-dozen officials.

He said that the conference had been called to answer the many questions that had been asked.

Whether the openings that were being made for women might or might not be taken advantage of later, they had a distinct bearing on recruiting.

He stated that a total of 33,000 women had registered for War Service.

6,000 for work in armament factories.

4,000 for work in clothing factories.

1,700 for work as milkmaids and for dairying.

500 for work as gardeners.

2,000 for work in other forms of agriculture.

11,000 for work as shop assistants.

500 for leather work.

5,000 for clerical work.

Many of these women were already working for their living, though not necessarily in the same occupations. 15,000 of them had had previous experience. 4,000 were ex-clerks. 1,000 had been shop assistants.

This is the sort of information that heads of Government departments love to reel off. They feel important in doing so, because they know that only from Government sources can the exact figures be drawn, and they like to show their familiarity with figures of great magnitude. Mr. Runciman looked and carried himself more importantly at this stage of the conference than at any other.

It had been asked, he said, why the Special War Service Register had been started when there was already a Labour Exchange Register. He explained inconclusively that this was because the Labour Exchanges were scattered up and down the country and were often not available in the districts where workers were wanted.

Women's labour was less mobile than the labour of young men.

It was not intended that the women on the Special Register should be employed at the expense of those on the Labour Exchange Register. Priority of employment would be given first to the women on the local Labour Exchange Register, then to those on the local Special Register, then the workers who could be drawn from a distance would be called upon.

It was being asked for what class of vacancy women were wanted. It was desired to increase recruiting by setting men free, and to this end special efforts were being made amongst employers in shops and factories. Conferences with employers had already been held in the cotton trade, the biscuit trade, and so on.

But the demand for women for War Service was more prospective than immediate.

Questions in regard to the conditions of women's labour had been raised. Hitherto the Exchanges had taken no responsibility for wages and conditions beyond giving such information as they had in their possession. But to prevent the possible exploitation of inexperienced women the Labour Exchanges were now instructed to inform them of the current rates of wages in order that women might know what they might reasonably ask for their labour.

NO PROMISE OF EQUAL PAY.

In regard to Government contracts it had been decided that the same piece work rates should be paid to women as to men. In regard to time rates no special conditions had been laid down. The general safeguard against women being used to displace men was that employers were being asked to take back those of their men who had served in the Army.

Mr. Runciman hurried uncomfortably through this stage of his remarks and turned with obvious relief to his next point.

HOUSING.

He said that one of the ways in which the Board of Trade asked that the women's organisations would help was in regard to the practical difficulties of housing—one of the most serious difficulties where women were moved from the district in which they lived to take up work elsewhere.

In Coventry the Labour Exchange had received the voluntary aid of ladies who had put the women up in their own houses or had found other accommodation for them. He hoped that such offers would be extended in agricultural districts. "In this work," said Mr. Runciman unctuously, "your organisations can be of the greatest assistance to us. We know that this work can be better done by such organisations as yours than by a Government office. You can help in inspecting lodgings and in keeping an eye on the young women and girls, in order that their new employment may not bring them into any danger.

Mr. Runciman was now quite pleased with himself and his subject. Some of the ladies who heard him may have been gratified by his confidence in their power to guide and mould the women and girls who are denied a wage big enough to provide a position of assured independence.

Nobody pointed out that the difficulty of finding accommodation for workers in country districts is due to a dog-in-the-manger policy of large landowners, and the long standing neglect to insist on the provision of adequate housing on the part of successive Governments.

Mr. Runciman continued by saying that much of the work for which women would be needed could not be done without training.

The armament firms said that only practice in the armament factories themselves would be of the least use and they preferred that no previous training should be given.

The Board of Agriculture had arranged for fortnight's courses of instruction for women. These courses had proved long enough to teach women to become good milkers and butter makers, if not good makers of cheese. If the women

(*Continued on page 230, col. 4.*

Women's Exhibition CAXTON HALL,

MAY 10, 11 & 12. 3 to 10 p.m.

TOY MAKING EXHIBIT
Arranged by the E.L.F.S.

SWEATED INDUSTRIES
Arranged by Dr. Tchaykovsky.

INTERNATIONAL SUFFRAGE EXHIBIT
Arranged by International Suffrage Shop.

FOOD PRICES EXHIBIT
Arranged by Miss Margaretta Hicks.

SPEAKERS from all the SUFFRAGE SOCIETIES

Admission 1s., after 7 p.m. 6d.
SEASON TICKETS, 2s. 6d.

League of Rights for Soldiers' and Sailors' Wives and Relatives.

Tuesday, April 20th, 8 p.m.
WOMEN'S HALL,
400 Old Ford Road, Bow, E.
Speakers: Mrs. DESPARD, Miss SYLVIA PANKHURST, Mr. G. LANSBURY, Mr. A. A. WATTS, Mrs. THOMPSON.

THE "HERALD" LEAGUE.

COMRADES!!
Rally to our Great Reunion TO-NIGHT
AT THE
Holborn Hall, Gray's Inn Road, W.C.
DANCING, SINGING & SPEAKING from 6.30 p.m. to Midnight. Doors open 5.30 p.m.
FANCY DRESS OPTIONAL. TICKETS 1/- EACH.
The "COSMO" Quadrille Band of 14 Instrumentalists will be in attendance.
M.C.s: F. C. Hagger and F. Furhmann.
Among the speakers will be G. LANSBURY, Mrs. DESPARD, SYLVIA PANKHURST, WILL DYSON (who will also sketch), J. SCURR and others.
Tickets may be had from—J. Burg, 13 Vernon Road, Bow, or League Secretary, 21 Tudor Street, E.C.

LEFT DESTITUTE!

A correspondent writes:—Mr. —— was called up when War was declared, and went in training in various places, and, owing to the weather and conditions which the soldiers were exposed to at that time, died at Northampton Hospital, on December 15th, from Pneumonia. The authorities have ceased to pay any allowance to the wife, the result being no means of existence for her and her two children, four and two years respectively. Can I appeal to you to help to find out if this is the way they treat one who has responded to the call to arms?

The wife has received the following letter:—

Madam,—With reference to your husband's death on the 15th December, 1914, separation allowance having been paid for 26 weeks after that date, it will appear that no further issue can be made. Payment will therefore now cease.

(Signed) ——, Major.
—— *Secretary*, —— Association.

MORE SWEATING.

A Dublin correspondent writes:—In connection with the case, reported in your issue of the 10th inst., of a girl employed in a manufacturing stationers at a wage of 13s. a week, through whose hands the postage of the firm passed, and who was found to have been taking 10s. worth every fortnight, I wish to state that the wages paid to women in responsible positions by manufacturing stationers in Dublin are so scandalous, that I hope you will be good enough to publish the fact.

I know a young woman of 24 years of age who has been working for the last five years in the office of a well-known firm doing highly responsible work. At one time country orders for hundreds of pounds were passing through her hands weekly, while she was receiving 7s. per week for the work. *She is still working for this pitiful sum*, having asked for a rise more than once, but in vain. When I have urged her to try to get work elsewhere, she answers that all the manufacturing stationers in Dublin pay at the same rate. She comes of superior people, and I believe nothing would tempt her to do a dishonest action. Can nothing be done to make such employers see their own action in its true light? A legal minimum wage is necessary to protect these workers.

The girl mentioned in this letter is an orphan with a younger sister wholly dependent on her.

Glasgow is proposing to found its own Relief Fund on account of its dissatisfaction with the way the National Relief fund has been distributed in the city. The chief ground for complaint is the grant towards rent, which is not considered great enough.

But in Poplar we have no grant towards rent at all. How is this?

WOMEN AND WAR.

SERVICE OF INTERCESSION (arranged by the C.L.W.S.), Saturday, April 24th, 3 p.m., in St. Michael & All Angels' St. Leonards Rd., Bromley, E. Preacher: The Rev. G. N. Whittingham, Vicar of St. Silas the Martyr, Kentish Town.

SOCIAL GATHERING for members and friends, 4 to 6 p.m., St. Michael's Parish Hall, St. Leonards Road, Bromley, E. Chair: The Rt. Rev. Bishop Powell.

REV. DR. ORCHARD, MISS MAUDE ROYDEN AND MRS SWANWICK, M.A., will speak on

WOMEN AND PEACE

CAXTON HALL, Westminster, THURSDAY, APRIL 22, 8 p.m.

Apply Free Church League for Woman Suffrage, 13 Bream's Buildings, Chancery Lane, E.C.

TICKETS 2s. 6d., 1s. & 6d. ADMISSION FREE.

TWO ROOMS to let furnished (as bed-sitting rooms, or sitting room and bedroom). Near Poplar Station, quiet open situation. Attendance if required. Very reasonable terms. Write only: Mrs. Richmond, 5 Woodstock Road, Poplar, E.

DREADNOUGHT Advertisements cost 5s. an inch; 1s. for 12 words, ½d. a word after.

I enclose 4s. 4d. for a year's WOMAN'S DREADNOUGHT.

Name .....

Address .....

The Woman's Dreadnought.

Published by the East London Federation of the Suffragettes,

400 OLD FORD ROAD, BOW, E.

Telephone EAST 1787.

Agents:—INTERNATIONAL SUFFRAGE SHOP, 11 Adam St. Strand, W.C.; CITY AND SUBURBAN PUBLISHING Co., St. Bride's Churchyard, E.C.; Messrs. HORACE MARSHALL & Co., Temple Avenue, E.C.

can be obtained at the Bookstalls of Messrs. W. H. SMITH and SONS, and Messrs. WILLING.

Annual Subscription: Post free, 4s. 4d.

Vol. II. No. 5.—Sat. April 17th, 1915.

Bravely and willingly we bear our share of the World's burdens. Why, then, deny us the right to Vote, which would dignify our labour and increase our Power of Service.

IMPORTANT!

Our letter to Mr. Lloyd George and other Members of the Government, asking that the women who replace men at the present crisis shall have the same pay as men, whether employed on piece or time rates, has at last been answered by Mr. Runciman at the Conference of Women which he summoned to the Board of Trade Offices.

Mr. Runciman says, like Mr. Lloyd George, that on Government contracts women are to receive the same piece-work rates as men, but he says that *concerning time rates*, no *special conditions are laid down with regard to women.*

The safeguard that the Government proposes to adopt to prevent the lowering of men's standard of wages, is to ask employers of labour to take back the men who have enlisted after the War is over.

We all know that this suggestion, this mere request, is absolutely valueless from the point of view of protecting the men. It does not even *pretend* to protect the women from exploitation.

I hope that you will very carefully read the report of the Conference. It is all of the utmost importance to us.

As I sat there and listened to the women who had been called in to confer as to what should be done with the womanhood of the nation and how it should be set to work, and saw that, though the room was crowded, barely half a dozen of those present had any claim to represent working women, who form the vast majority of all women, I longed, if possible more than ever, for the day when working women will have the power to force their recognition as citizens—when they will have the vote and will have learnt how to use it, banded together politically and industrially.

Do you realize that at the present time the only voices that, as a rule, are heard speaking for you are the voices of women who scarcely know you, who have won the ear of politicians in power, because they are rich, or their men relations are rich and belong to the predominant political party.

Our votelessness and our unorganised state leave us at the mercy of back-stairs influence.

Let us free ourselves from this position of dumb helplessness at all costs! Working women should join their own trade and political organisations without delay!

E. SYLVIA PANKHURST.

WOMEN JOIN THE

East London Federation of the Suffragettes

You need us; we need you.

I wish to become a member of the EAST LONDON FEDERATION OF THE SUFFRAGETTES.

Name .....

Address .....

I enclose 1½d. to cover membership and postage.

THE BABY SAVING CRUSADE.

"Notification of Births" Act, 1907.

Seven years ago when I was reading for my M.D. degree in State Medicine, the "Notification of Births" Act was passed as an adoptive Act, by which the birth of a child should be notified within 36 hours of its occurence to the Local Medical Officer of Health.

There is a popular saying that we all change every seven years—is it not an opportune moment to press on Parliament as emergency legislation the compulsory enactment of this important measure, instead of leaving many local authorities to be satisfied with the ordinary Registration of Births six weeks after the event?

We must remember that out of 800,000 babies born each year, we lose 114,000 in the first year of life. Indeed, one-fifth of the total infant mortality occurs in the first week, one-third in the first month and one-half in the first three months. Further "a high infant death rate in a given community implies in general a high death rate in the next four years of life." (Dr. Newsholme, Chief Medical Officer, Local Government Board).

The present time is a period of awakening to national needs and national welfare, and with the flower of our youth perishing and worse than perishing on the battlefields, we at home must save every savable child.

It has long been an ideal of mine that every child throughout the land should have a fairy godmother or godfather, and the establishment of the School and After-care Committees was a step in this direction, but we must go farther back than the child of school age—according to such authorities as Sir George Newman, Chief Medical Officer to the Board of Education and Dr. Newsholme, Chief Medical Officer to the Local Government Board in their reports and in their circulars urging upon local authorities and philanthropists the establishment of Infant and Mother Welfare Centres, Nurseries and Clinics.

I feel very strongly that the first step in any Baby Saving Crusade just now is the immediate placing of the "Notification of Births" Act on the Statute Book as a compulsory measure throughout the United Kingdom.

Seven years have gone by, and any theoretical objection to an Act that has brought nothing but good to Infant Welfare must surely go by the board.

With the birth of every child known to the local authorities within 36 hours, the vast organisation of Municipal Health Visiting, Infant Welfare Centres, Dining rooms for Nursing Mothers, Voluntary Health Societies etc., can set to work at once to help the little newcomer at least over the first month of life, and so the most vulnerable period of its existence will be safely past.

The Association of Infant Consultations and Schools for Mothers, (4 Tavistock Square), tells us that 59 out of the 96 great towns (population 50,000 or more) have Welfare Centres, but of the 145 smaller towns (population under 50,000) only 32 have them. These are being extended rapidly and the future is very hopeful.

A few weeks ago, a woman speaker at a Church Conference, pleaded for kindlier treatment of girls, who owing to the peculiar conditions prevailing in our Military camps, were about to become mothers. Wherever troops have been stationed, the social workers report an expected crop of fatherless babies, (a woman patrol at a south coast watering place tells me to-day of 400) and when we remember that the highest infant mortality occurs amongst illegitimate babies, we may expect a veritable slaughter of the innocents, unless we bestir ourselves on behalf of those little ones about to enter a world that will give them but cold welcome.

It would be magnificent if in this ye of woe we could point to a considerably lowered Infantile Death Rate (not to mention the Infantile Damage Rate that goes hand in hand with it).

But we must get to work quickly, and assuredly the first thing to do is to petition the Rt. Hon. Herbert Samuel, President of the Local Government Board, Whitehall, by letter, urging him to secure the enforcement throughout the land of the "Notification of Births" Act 1907.

May I entreat all who love their homeland and the little children born to it, to do this without delay, and further, to approach their Member of Parliament at once?

BARBARA TCHAYKOVSKY, M.D.

GRATEFULLY ACKNOWLEDGED.

GENERAL FUND.—Mrs Baillie Weaver 2.0.0, Mrs Merrick 2.6, Profits of Social (S.-W. Ham) 1.0.3, Miss Brett 1.10.0, Miss Baines 2.6, Mr & Mrs Reynolds 4.0, Miss Crum (postage) 3.4, Mrs Luscomb 15.8, Mrs J H Flack 2.0, Collection (General Meeting) 3.5, Collection (Poplar Meeting) 0.9½.

FOR MILK AND GENERAL DISTRESS.—Palladium Charity Concert (half proceeds) 109.2.1, Mrs J J Green 3.0.0, Miss E Gore-Brown 2.5.0, Mr & Mrs Sadd-Brown 2.0.0, The Misses Smith 10.0, Dr M Hardie (2.6 weekly) 10.0, Miss Haburn (monthly) 2.6, Mrs Girling (monthly) 5.0, Miss C Sydney-Woolf 5.0, Miss Hodge 10.7, Mrs B Janom 5.0, Anon 10.0, Mrs Miller (monthly) 1.0.0, A Sheffield Woman 10.0, Anon 1.0, Mrs R Johnson 5.0, Mrs Melling 2.0, Mrs Manning-Prentice 2.6, Miss Hopkins 5.0, Lady Battersea 2.6, Mrs Raisin 10.0, Miss Fussell 6.0, The Misses Collier 2.0.0, Mrs Rintoul 10.0, Miss Norbury 1.0.0, Mrs Richmond (5.0 weekly) 1.0.0, Mr McWilliams 1.0.0, Miss I Jones (weekly) 2.0, Mrs Hyde 10.0, Miss F. Wright 1.0.0, Miss Meeking 5.0, Mrs Hands 10.0, Mrs Fryer 2.2.0, Mrs Reddihough 3.3.0, T Riglin, Esq 1.0, Mr Matheson 2.6, "Two Colliers" (Mountain Ash) 3.6, Miss Holness 2.6, Miss M Burgess (5.0 monthly) 5.6, Anon (400 Old Ford Rd.) 2.6, Miss Stevens (monthly) 10.0, Anon 10.0, Miss Treherne 10.0, Miss Tanner 5.0, Mrs Powles (weekly) 1.0, Miss Drewry 2.6, Mrs Morrison 5.0, Mrs Mansell-Moullin ("A Thank Offering") 5.0.0, Miss Downie 5.0, Miss Yeoman (weekly) 10.0, Mrs Grecir 10.0, A S Montgomery, Esq 10.0, Mrs I M Hervey 1.0.0, Mrs Matheson 2.0, Miss Turner, B.A. 5.0, Miss Peachey 1.0, Dr Percival Hartley 5.0, Mr & Mrs A Solomon 7.6, Miss M Carson 2.6, Miss Purvis 1.0.0, Miss H Macgregor 10.0, J Thane, Esq 9.0, Miss F Rendall 5.0, Miss G Staley 5.0, H Burrows, Esq 5.0, Miss S F Hockey 2.6, Miss F Bowly 5.0, Messrs Dunhills, Ltd 3.3.0, Miss B Errington 2.6, A Brooke, Esq 3.3.0, Mrs Ewart 1.1.0, Miss Isherwood 5.0, Miss E Morgan 5.0.

COLLECTED.—Miss Parry 5.10, Miss Kurner 0.4, Mrs Hammond 2.7½, Miss Burch 4.0, Mrs Moore 2.6, Mr Lansbury 5.1, Miss D Wagstaff 0.8½, Miss Peeston 0.10, Miss Paske 1.2, Mrs McCheyne (3 weeks) 10.7, Miss O Fontaine 3.0, Miss Cutten 5.0, Mrs Fox Strangways 1.10.0, Miss Drewry 2.6, Mrs Farrall 1.5½, E Smith, Esq 6.0, A Little Boy (Hereford) 0.8, Miss V Bressey 9.0½, Miss E Green 9.0, Mrs Saxby 6.0, Employees of Messrs Ross, Ltd, per Mrs Young 5.6, Mrs S E Parkyn 1.6, H Lynch, Esq 1.6, Children of E Twyman, Esq 2.0, Master Jack Hardman 10.3, Women Employees of Brinksway Dyeing Co. 4.0, Betty, David & Joan Thomson 5.0, Miss E Wilson 10.3, Miss L Apthorpe 2.6, Miss P Rickards (at Annual Conference N.F.W.T.) 8.0, Miss Beningfield 5.0, Mrs Bird (2 weeks) 1.2.11½, Miss Deberell 2.9, Miss E Sadd-Brown 2.2, Miss J Sadd-Brown 2.4.

CLOTHES.—Miss H Gregory, Miss Longbotham, The Misses Gyffard, Anon (Judd St.), J Gordon, Esq, Mr & Mrs C Ball, The Principal (Greystoke Place Training College, E.C.), Miss Fontaine, Anon (hats & caps), Miss Turner, B.A., Two large cases per Miss Pitman.

GROCERIES.—Hampstead W.S.P.U., Per Miss Groom: Proceeds of Pound Day at Brownswood College.

COCOA.—The Director, Van Houten, Ltd.

FLOUR.—Mr Wickert.

EGGS.—Crick Rectory, Rugby.

ALBULACTIN.—Mrs Zangwill.

Mrs. Esson, on behalf of the Woman's Reform Club of Johannesburg, has written to say that she is sending us five more cases of clothing. These make 44 cases that we have had from these good friends who have been moved to help us by the appeal of Miss Newcombe of the Women's Suffrage Union for British Dominions Overseas.

(Continued from front page.)

were active and intelligent they could learn enough in the time to make themselves useful.

The Board of Education and the L.C.C. were being communicated with in regard to providing a better training for some of the women, and it was hoped that the system would be extended through the local authorities.

Mr. Runciman's remarks came to an end. There was a somewhat icy pause in which no one spoke.

Mrs. DRAKE.

Then Mrs. Drake, a working woman, and one of the representatives of the East London Federation of the Suffragettes, stood up and said: "Can anyone speak? Can I speak?"

Mr. Runciman answered "Yes."

Mrs. Drake then urged that the men's trade unions should be asked to admit women members, and the women be given equal pay for equal work, whether on piece rates or time rates? Then there would be no more reason to talk of the undercutting of men by women blacklegs.

Mr. Runciman moved uncomfortably in his chair.

Miss SYLVIA PANKHURST.

Miss Sylvia Pankhurst, also speaking for the E.L.F.S., then followed, saying that she had been in correspondence with Mr. Lloyd George on this very point. Mr. Lloyd George had said that women who took the places of men were to have equal pay for piece rates, but the answer in regard to time rates had not been forthcoming until now. It was useless merely to promise equal pay for piece rates, because the employers could simply reply by setting all women to work on time rates. This would be unjust to the women, because it was unfair that they should be made to work as hard as men for less pay. Moreover the only safeguard for the men was to ensure that the women who replaced them should receive the same pay. No other attempt at safeguard was of the least use. She was instructed by the East London Federation of the Suffragettes to urge:

That when drafted from the Register of War Service to employment, women should receive the same rates hitherto paid to men, whether employed on piece work or time work, and in addition any special war bonus or increase of wages during the war which would be paid in the case of men.

That in no case should women be drafted from the War Register to work at less than the current rate of pay for the man unskilled labourer, and that if the woman be skilled her wages should approximate to the wage of a skilled man.

These provisions ought to obtain in regard to all Government contract work, whether the women were directly replacing men or not. At the present time the wage paid to women for such work as soldiers' bandoliers and soldiers' housewives was a scandal.

In regard to training the E.L.F.S. urged:

That adequate maintenance, which shall in no case be less than the value of £1 per week, shall be provided for women in connection with Government training schemes or schemes subsidised by public funds.

£1 a week was not too large a sum. Miss Pankhurst said that she had been a national scholar at South Kensington, and she and her fellow scholarship students, both men and women alike, had had maintenance allowances of 25s. a week. 25s. a week was better than £1, but probably the women who were taking these other courses of training and who had not competed for scholarships would be able to manage with £1.

In regard to the problems that arise later, she was instructed to say:

That in the readjustment of staffs to be effected after the war, priority of employment shall be given to the worker who has dependents, or, where both have dependents, to the older worker, and that the Government shall make itself responsible for the maintenance of the workers displaced as a result of the war, until suitable work at an adequate wage has been found.

Of course the soldiers who returned able to do their own work should have their places back. but these suggestions were for others who might be displaced.

Some arrangement on the lines of the Prince of Wales's fund, though it was to be hoped that it would be more generous in its allowances, could be made for the maintenance of displaced workers until work could be found, but the Government must devise schemes to secure that productive work for these people should be found, and should not turn them adrift workless.

Returning to the present situation, she was instructed to say:

That the advisory committee of workers appointed by the Government for dealing with industrial matters during the war should include representatives of organised women workers who should also be appointed to any arbitration court that might be set up.

This was of immense importance to women. It was all very well to consult in an unofficial way the members of outside organisations, but after all, the persons affected in questions of trade dispute were the workers in the trade, and the women had as much right to be represented on the bodies which would decide these questions as the men.

She was asked to say further that:

In cases where a sole arbiter of a dispute might be appointed and the persons concerned be women, the arbiter shall be a woman.

VOTES FOR WOMEN.

At the present time the Government was coming to women for aid. Governments had always needed women and used them, but they were calling on them more publicly and systematically now than they had done before. She wished to remind the Government that women were still denied the franchise.

But Mr. Runciman interrupted, he would not have votes for women mentioned.

LADY ABERCONWAY.

Lady Aberconway, who represented the Women's Emergency Corps and the Women's Liberal Federation, said: "It is our earnest desire to co-operate with the Government." She wanted to know whether the Government was employing as many women clerks and typists as it might.

Mr. Runciman said that the substitution of women for men in Government departments was "proceeding rapidly."

Lady Aberconway heckled him a little. (There is something a trifle gruesome in the way in which some people, who cannot, or will not, go to the war themselves, press for the economic screw to be put upon others, in order that they may be driven to enlist.) She suggested that in all the Government departments outside the Post Office, only 500 women were employed. She did not ask whether the women were getting the pay that the men had had!

Mr. Runciman answered that 600 were employed by the Board of Trade alone.

Referring to the question of training schemes for women, Lady Aberconway said that she hoped that maintenance would be given—"The lowest possible living wage" of course.

Mr. Runciman said that the women who took the fortnight's courses in agriculture were allowed 25s. a week.

Lady Aberconway ejaculated with proud smiles "That is very handsome."

Mr. Runciman was prompted by an official, and explained that the grant was £3 for a fortnight, but as £1 was paid by way of fee to the Agricultural College, the maintenance worked out at £1 a week.

No one asked when the women who are being "*trained*" in the Queen's workrooms are to get £1 a week!

NATIONAL UNION OF SUFFRAGE SOCIETIES.

Mrs. Rackham of the National Union of Suffrage Societies asked for an advisory committee of women with branch committees in the localities to deal with the question of war service for women. She thought that the Government was not giving a clear lead to private employers, by employing as many women as they might in the civil service. She urged that the Government should do away with the marriage disqualification where it obtained against women.

Miss LLEWELLYN DAVIES.

Miss Llewellyn Davies, of the Women's Co-operative Guild, stated that this immense organisation of women would refuse to co-operate with the Government scheme in any way, unless the Government would limit the inhumanly long hours which young women and girls were being forced to work in the armament factories. Young women and girls were working at Messrs. Armstrong & Whitworth's Elswick works from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. with night shifts. Two firms at Woolwich worked their women from 7 a.m. to 9 p.m. from Mondays to Fridays, and 7 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Saturdays and Sundays. Before any women's organisation should back the Government in this matter, the Government should restrict these hours. The young girls concerned were the future mothers of the race. The war bonus was being used for speeding up and there was great overpressure.

It must be remembered that the work was done standing, and that the women had often a long walk to and from the factory. The sort of lives they had to live and the food they had to buy made the work harder.

Apart from the inhuman cruelty of the system, it was surprising that the Government should sanction such extreme economic waste, as these long hours certainly produced. Experiments both in this country and abroad had shown that there was greater productivity when the workers were employed for 7½ hours than for 10 hours.

Mr. Runciman asked innocently: "Do you suggest that there has been an infringement of the Factory Acts."

Miss Llewellyn Davies gasped. She seemed unable to find an answer for so absurd a question!

"Or do you suggest that they have been waved altogether?" said Mr. Runciman.

Again Miss Llewellyn Davies left the answer to him.

Miss MARY MACARTHUR.

Miss Mary Macarthur, on behalf of the National Federation of Women's Trade Unions, complained that whilst women representing the Liberal and Conservative Parties had been invited, the women of the Labour Party had not received an invitation. She was there representing a federation of 25,000 working women, but the registered Trade Unions of women had not been called, she thought it would have been helpful if representatives of the unions of women engaged in armament work had been there to speak for themselves. She had just returned from Elswick, women were working twelve hours a day there for six and a half days a week, and the same on night shift—84 hours a week including meal times. The employers had told her that there was no shortage of women's labour and that they had not imported labour from other towns as had been stated, and that they knew of no other armament firm in need of women's labour. At three o'clock in the afternoon she had seen a huge crowd of women waiting for work at the factory gates and the managers had said that they could not keep their gates clear. The proprietors of the armament works at Erith had replied to requests for improved conditions by her Federation, that there could be no ground for complaint, as the competition for work was never greater than at present. They had said that two shifts of women working twelve hours a day occupied their machines more efficiently than three shifts working eight hours a day.

Miss Macarthur added that a committee of women with practical experience would be exceedingly useful and urged either that the present advisory committee should be extended to include women's representatives, or that a woman's committee should be formed. The difficulties in regard to time and piece rates were not insurmountable.

Miss Macarthur further asked whether there was not reason to believe that the 33,000 women who had registered for War service were heavily duplicated with those who had registered at the Labour Exchanges.

Mr. Runciman said that his officials estimated that only about 2,000 were thus duplicated.

Mrs. Drake said: "My experience is that some women register everywhere they can."

WOMEN'S FREEDOM LEAGUE.

Mrs. Tanner, of the Women's Freedom League, said that if such women as teachers of domestic science were employed in cooking and catering for the Army, the health of the Army might be improved and much of the waste now complained of prevented.

She urged that women should receive the same pay as men and that even when unskilled should have a living wage. The work that women were to do might be regarded as temporary, but in many cases would become permanent. An article in the *Statist* had said that many of the trades that Germany had monopolised, because it paid lower wages than those paid to men in this country, might be got back if women at low wages were employed.

She hoped that the Government was not animated by that idea, and she would appeal to them and to women, on patriotic lines not to allow the standard of wages to be depressed, as this would mean race deterioration. This would be too high a price to pay to get back German trade, and to help some people to pile up big profits at the expense of others. It would be very sad if women should find later on that they had done this. It was not women's labour but women's cheapness that must be feared. The interests of men and women were in reality identical. It must be evident to anyone that if a woman were employed to do the same work, as well, or nearly as well, as a man, at half the wage, it would be a temptation to employers to keep the woman on permanently. The time to put that right was now. It was no use waiting till after the War. She hoped that Mr. Runciman would use his influence with the Government to see that equal pay was secured now.

Miss Nina Boyle gave an instance of women working at the making of hospital necessaries, from 6 a.m. to 10 p.m. The employer had a special permit exempting him from the Factory Acts. She objected to the Factory Acts being abrogated without the matter being raised in Parliament. Parliament had never done much for women, they had no representatives there, but it was all the protection they had got.

THE ANTIS.

The representative of the National League for opposing Women's Suffrage said: "We hope to co-operate with the Government without imposing any terms." The remark was characteristic!

Lady Samuels of the Women Unionists and Mrs. Reed of the Women's Liberal Federation tried to start arguments about what Miss Mary Macarthur and Miss Llewellyn Davies had said, but after a little while Mr. Runciman intervened.

The Girl's Friendly, the Y.W.C.A., and some others, offered enthusiastic help to the Government. The conference was becoming extremely boring, everyone was tired.

WORKING WOMEN DONE FOR.

But suddenly Miss Eleanor Rathbone of Liverpool (N.U.W.S.S.), rosy and comfortable and complacent, startled us by an extraordinary speech.

She said that she had been disgusted by the poor response of the appeal to women to enlist for War service in Liverpool, but that she thought this was because the appeal was not sufficiently striking and direct; the appeal was too refined. To get an effective census it should be more like a recruiting appeal, there should be recruiting posters and recruiting stations.

Also the appeal ought to be more reassuring, as she believed that a good many women were hanging back for fear they should be used as a means of undercutting men.

To get the middle-class women it would be well to resort to "comrades' brigades," like the "Dockers' battalion."

If the Government wanted to migrate the middle class woman, she would not go alone, or if she did she would not stick to her job, or her parents would object: she must go with her own class and her own set.

If the Government wanted to get women to replace men who did really skilled and hard work, they must replace them by women of another class. Working women were too worn out, too poorly nourished and starved and sweated. They could not stand the strain of hard work.

Miss Rathbone spoke quite cheerfully and seemed not to realize the tremendous horror of what she was saying. She seemed not to realize that if it were true that working class women, who form the vast majority of our womanhood, were too broken and spent by exploitation to be capable of hard work, our race would be practically doomed, and that no more crushing indictment could be brought against our social system.

She went on to say that many middle class women might fill up registration forms under excitement and then back out. To prevent this, they should be put through military drill, to teach them to work together. They should also be given a retaining fee when they registered "of even a shilling a week," and when they had "accepted the King's shilling" they should be subject to penalities "if they backed out."

Thus Miss Rathbone asserted that the worn out working woman was incapable of hard work, and must be replaced by her more vigorous sister of the middle class. But later, Miss Oldham of the Headmistresses' Association declared that her colleagues could not recommend their old girls of the middle class to work 12 hours a day in armament factories, and suggested that there should be six-hour shifts and women matrons—not until then would the work be "suitable for middle-class girls."

Miss BONDFIELD.

Miss Margaret Bondfield, representative of the Shop Assistants' Trade Union, protested against the present confusion in regard to registration for work. She told of a telephone operator who went to register at Aldgate. She was told that she must go to the Exchange in her own district. There she was told to go to New Bridge Street at 9 a.m.; from there she was sent to Aldgate, and on arriving found 600 others waiting for work. It was important to know how many of the women who had registered for War Service were unemployed, and how many were middle-class women not needing work, and what was being done to differentiate between the classes?

Mr. Runciman, in reply, thanked the delegates present for their advice; a statement of the Government's answer would be issued later. Perhaps the societies would be invited to confer again, and if an "easy, simple, and satisfactory" way could be found, a woman's advisory committee might be formed. Some of the suggestions made, *notably those of Miss Rathbone*, would certainly be adopted.

Mrs. Drake asked: "Will the Government stop the sweating of women?" There was no reply.

Women workers employed by the Allen Lithographic Co., Ltd., Kirkcaldy, went on strike for a War bonus of 2s. a week. The same day a bonus of ten per cent. was offered by the employers and agreed to.

GIVE THIS PAPER TO A FRIEND.

IMPORTANT NOTICE.

Now that our Bow mother and baby clinic has its own premises at the Babies' House, 438 Old Ford Road, we are able to make arrangements for all the work of the Bow Branch of the E.L.F.S.—instead of a part only—to be done at 400 Old Ford Road. This will be much more convenient. The publishing office for the DREADNOUGHT will also be at our headquarters, 400 Old Ford Road, Bow.

Communications should no longer be sent to 321 Roman Road, Bow, as the office there is discontinued.

DISTRICT REPORTS.

BOW.

400 OLD FORD ROAD, BOW.

A meeting will be held in the Women's Hall on Sunday, at 8 p.m., the speakers will be Miss S. Pankhurst, Mrs. Walker, and Mr. E. Duval, and there will also be music. The meetings will be held on Tuesday afternoons as usual.

Members are reminded that Self-Denial Week begins on April 23rd, and are asked to think of different ways in which to raise money for the funds. Members should remember that April subscriptions are overdue. Don't forget your penny a month, or more if you like.

Members may have cards for their friends for our At Home on April 23rd, by applying at the office; members do not need cards.

POPLAR.

THE WOMEN'S HALL, 20 RAILWAY ST.
Organiser: MRS. DRAKE.

Will anybody wishing for a box for Self Denial Week kindly call at 20 Railway St., when we shall be very pleased to supply one? Here is an opportunity to show what you can do for the cause.

If you cannot afford much yourself collect among your friends. We shall be thankful even if it is only a little. There are many other ways in which one can help. Please do which suits you best, but do something. Members should apply for Cards for their friends for our E.L.F.S. At Home, on April 23rd.

A good many members, who have not wanted their names published, have distributed the *Dreadnought*, and we wish to thank them.

March Subscriptions amounted to 14s.

There are still a few arrears to clear up, and I shall be very pleased to receive them.

Now the brighter weather is coming will someone volunteer to sell *Dreadnoughts* on Sunday morning at the Dock Gates? This used to be a good pitch but Miss W. Long, who used to take it, is now away in the country, and it could easily be worked up again.

***Dreadnoughts* sold two weeks ending April 10th, 220. Collected—Mrs. Bird £1 2s. 11½d.**

BROMLEY.

Joint Hon. Secretaries:
MRS. MCCHEYNE & MRS. MANTLE,
53 St. Leonard Street.

Now the holiday is over we must all work with renewed energy. No one as yet has come forward to take a regular pitch to sell the *Dreadnought*; surely out of all the Bromley members half a dozen could offer, if only for half an hour a week; please send names along to the shop as soon as possible.

Please apply for cards for your friends for our At Home, April 23rd.

SOUTH WEST HAM.

Centre for Tidal Basin and Custom House—
55 Fife Road, Tidal Basin.
***Hon. Sec.*—MRS. DAISY PARSONS,**
94 Ravenscroft Road.

Owing to Easter holidays all meetings have been suspended for a week, but all is starting again as usual. The relief work has been carried on all through the week, and we find this is good propoganda, as we are getting new members in. Members please remember the meeting in *Dreadnought* list for Monday, April 19th, at Canning Town is cancelled. Now will someone volunteer to distribute 20 copies of paper each week. They can be got at 55 Fife Road. Now, please buck up, any that are able and have no small children. It is very necessary to get the paper read just now.

Please apply for cards for your friends for our At Home, April 23rd.

HACKNEY.

Offices: 175 DALSTON LANE
(Facing Hackney Downs Station).

Please make our Thursday evening meetings more widely known. Men are cordially invited, and we are very pleased to see husbands and wives uniting in our cause. Meeting begins punctually at 8 p.m. Discussion invited.

Will Hackney members please note that Bow Club is open on Friday evenings, 7—10. As there is no club in Hackney, they are very welcome in Bow, which is only a short distance. Take train from Hackney to Old Ford.

Please apply for cards for your friends for our At Home, April 23rd.

***Dreadnoughts* sold—12.**

EXCELLENT NEEDLEWOMAN wishes to undertake daily work. Good references. — "Box 100," WOMAN'S DREADNOUGHT.

SOUTH-EAST LONDON E.L.F.S.

Hon. Secretary: Miss BALCHIN,
39 Radnor Street, Peckham.

Discussion on "The War and After, from the Woman's point of view," was much appreciated by those who were present and took part in it, at the meeting in Kempshead Road Hall, on April 7th, but we ought to have larger audiences at these meetings, which are held every week whenever the hall is available. Will members do what they can to bring others along? Three more names are now added to membership list—we want *more*. There will be no indoor meeting on April 21st, as the hall will be wanted for a church function. We have to thank our good friend Miss Charles for generous donation of 5s. to local fund, besides other services. *Dreadnoughts* may be obtained from the Secretary at above address.

OTHER SOCIETIES.

NORTH LONDON M.P.U.

Hon. Sec.: MR. H. G. EVERETT.
c/o Mr. Innes, 31 Balmes Road, Southgate Road.

Good meeting held in Finsbury Park on Sunday. Members and sympathisers asked to support these meetings, Sundays, 3.30 p.m. 12 *Dreadnoughts* sold last week.

Our Society hopes to be represented at the Suffrage Exhibition to be held in the Caxton Hall in May.

LEAGUE OF RIGHTS

For Soldiers' and Sailors' Wives and Relatives.

More than Tipperary Clubs and War Clubs run by outsiders, however kindly disposed, do the soldiers' wives, mothers and other dependent relatives need an organisation of their own to act for them in all cases of individual or collective difficulty.

The members of this League are all *bona fide* dependents of soldiers and sailors eligible for pensions and separation allowances, and at least two-thirds of each local or central committee of the organisation must be composed in the same way. The League will make it its business to inquire into and secure redress for individual grievances, besides striving to improve the conditions of the whole body of soldiers' and sailors' wives and relatives. The League will act as the family lawyer does in the case of well-to-do people, and as the Trade Union does in the case of miners, railwaymen and others.

Dealing with the Government is, of course, an exceedingly difficult business, except for experts. All secretaries of the League by constant practice will become experts, and their expert knowledge will be at the disposal of others who are soldiers' and sailors' wives and relatives like themselves. Though the majority of the League's members will, of course, be women, fathers and other dependent men relatives are eligible for membership, and one of these has been placed on the committee of the branch of the League which has recently been formed in West Ham.

The League will form a tremendous bond of union between the soldiers' and sailors' relatives, and undoubtedly a League of which they form an integral part and in the building up of which they have each had a share, will be of infinitely greater benefit to the people concerned than anything that can be done for them from the outside, for it is an eternal truth that self-help is always the best, and that every class or section of people must work out its own social salvation.

The members of the League will each pay a minimum subscription of 1d. a month, or more if they choose.

Many successful applications have been made to the War Office by the various branches and by the Central Committee. In one case a member of the Royal Engineers, who had been an in-patient in the London Hospital, and was then discharged on 14 days' furlough, had been left without pay during his illness, and no money appeared to be forthcoming to pay for his convalescence. There was only the separation allowance of 16s. for his wife and child, for the family of three to live on. On application by the League of Rights £3 was sent to him.

A reader points out that in our issue of April 3rd we stated that the weekly wage of women in the Queen's Workrooms was now to be raised by 10 per cent. instead of 15 per cent. We took the figures from the notices which appeared generally in the Press, as the Central Committee did not communicate with the WOMAN'S DREADNOUGHT direct. We gave the correct percentage in our report of the Poplar Mayor's Committee Meeting last week.

BRAVO TELEPHONE GIRLS!

The London Telephone Service is finding it difficult to obtain male operators for night work, and is now asking for women to do the work. The women, however, suspect that it is not the scarcity of men but the lowness of the wage offered, which is landing the Post Office in difficulties, and they have no intention of "black-legging."

At a meeting which has just been held, the following resolution was carried unanimously:—

"That this meeting of women telephonists views with suspicion and alarm the request of the department for volunteers for 'night duty' from their ranks. While sensible of the difficulties of the department through losing the services of so many of the men telephonists through the War—and 'other reasons'—it is of opinion that if a fair and proper wage were offered, a sufficient number of men would be forthcoming to fill the places of those who have left.

"It further notes that no guarantees have been given that on the cessation of the War the proposed night duty for women will cease (the employment of men being reverted to), or that the performance of night duty by women during the War will not be used as a precedent for the future.

"In view of these facts, this meeting declares its intention to refrain from volunteering for this duty, and pledges itself to use its influence to persuade all women telephonists to adopt the same attitude."

We hope that women in every industry will make a similar stand when asked to lower the hardly-won standards of labour. The Post Office is offering the women 22s. a week during training, and 24s. afterwards! If the Government acts in this way how can we expect the private employer to be any better?

STOPPING AT VITAL POINT.

The Health Committee of the Bradford Corporation recently passed a resolution deciding to recommend the Parliamentary Sub-committee of the City Council to include in the next bill to be promoted by the Corporation clauses providing: "That a married woman who is the mother of a child or children under the age of three years shall not be employed in any textile factory in the city unless the owner or occupier makes arrangements to the satisfaction of the Corporation for the care of such child or children during the period of employment."

But the Health Committee's Bill stops short at the vital point. Will the Health Committee see to it that maintenance is provided for the mother so that she need not go out to work whilst her child is under three?

If not, it will merely force her into some other form of employment, and almost certainly every other form of employment open to her—except that of "the streets"—will be worse paid.

Mrs. Mary Longman, who attended the recent Socialist Woman's International Conference in Switzerland, states, in an interview with the *Weekly Dispatch*, that an important protest by women against the War took place in Berlin on March 18th. Knowing that no advertised demonstration would be allowed to take place, the women arranged by word of mouth to meet before the Reichstag, (*i.e.*, the Parliament), and at the appointed time between four and five thousand women assembled and shouted for an honourable peace.

For some time the police attempted in vain to disperse the women, who, though driven away four times, returned again.

Meanwhile, Karl Liebknecht, the Socialist Member who has opposed the War, appeared at one of the windows.

The women cheered him, but he was prevented from addressing them. By this time further reinforcements of police had been brought up, and the women decided to withdraw "for fear of more useless bloodshed."

The War Office immediately notified the police that no account of the demonstration should be allowed to appear in the Press.

Liebknecht was afterwards ordered to the front; his supporters felt that this was an indirect death sentence upon him for what had occurred.

SELF-DENIAL WEEK.

The E.L.F.S. urgently appeals to all members and friends to co-operate in our Self-Denial Week, which we are arranging to hold from Friday, April 23rd, to Friday, April 30th. We urgently need funds for our Mother and Baby Clinics, our Nursery, our "Cost-Price" Restaurants, and for our political and educational work which is so vitally essential to safeguard the interests of the nation's homes in this time of crisis.

Friends who will take collecting sheets or boxes in Self-Denial Week, who will help to raise funds in any way should apply to Miss Sylvia Pankhurst as soon as possible.

WHAT YOU CAN DO!

Collect in the streets.
Collect from your friends.
Sell flowers in the streets.
Make cake, jam or other things to sell.
Take a stall in the market and sell papers, flowers or other things there for the funds.
Sell our toys.
Sell the WOMAN'S DREADNOUGHT.
Organise an at home, dance, concert, or meeting in aid of the funds.
Go without something in order to save money for the cause, and persuade others to do the same.
Give what you can.

OUR AT HOME.

On Friday, April 23rd, at the beginning of Self Denial week, the E. L. F. S. will give an At Home at 400 Old Ford Road, Bow, from 4 p.m. to 11 p.m., there will be speeches and music, and dancing after 9.30 p.m. Friends who wish to attend our At Home should write to us for tickets. Members do not need tickets as they will be the hostesses.

BRITISH COMMITTEE OF THE INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S CONGRESS.

28 Broadway, Westminster,
April 8th, 1915.

DEAR MISS PANKHURST,—It has been pointed out to us that in the WOMAN'S DREADNOUGHT you speak of this International Congress as a "Peace Congress." This is giving rise to a good deal of misunderstanding, as the Congress cannot fairly be so described. The definition of the terms of peace is the only point in connection with peace on which it expresses an opinion or makes a demand. To call it a "Peace Congress" gives the impression that its object is to demand peace at any price. We shall be very glad, therefore, if you will do what you can to remove the false impression which has been given.

Yours faithfully,
C. MACMILLAN.

[We understand that one of the principal objects of this Conference is to discuss measures for laying the foundation of a permanent peace. Editor W.D.]

The wife of a market gardener, who has borne him 26 children in 27 years, summoned her husband last week for failing to maintain her and her family. The magistrate made a maintenance order of 10s. a week against the man.

Does the magistrate imagine that a woman can keep herself, let alone her children, on 10s.? And, since her last baby was born only recently, she cannot and ought not to go out to work. Would the woman have been treated so badly and the man got off so cheaply if a woman had been on the bench?

OUR "DREADNOUGHT."

AIR: "IRISH MOLLY O."

Our gallant little DREADNOUGHT
Still gaily breasts the waves,
In fair or stormy weather
All peril gladly braves;
Where e'er she goes, she fears no foe,
Her mission is to fight
For Justice and for Freedom,
And woman's wrongs to right.

Long live her faithful captain,
And may the day be near,
When every hope she cherishes
Shall crown the cause so dear:
Then give three cheers—three hearty cheers
For those brave souls who fought
To help the cause of liberty,
And launched our own DREADNOUGHT.

K. O'CONNELL.

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